

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD**

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**Telephonic
FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2006**

Board Members Present

Lisa O'Connor, M.A., Chairperson
Rebecca Binge, M.A.
Alison Grimes, Au.D.
Jennifer Hancock, M.A.
Carol Murphy, M.A.
Diana Verdugo, M.S.

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Kathi Burns, Staff Analyst
Ann Bollenbacher, CPD Coordinator
George Ritter, Legal Counsel

Guests Present

Robert Powell, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Jane Moir, Los Angeles County Office of Education (Los Angeles location)

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Full Board Meeting**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Lisa O'Connor called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those participating introduced themselves.

III. Regulation Proposals

A. Consider Proposed Amendment to the Continuing Professional Development Regulations – California Code of Regulation Sections 1399.151.1 – 1399.160.10

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the proposed regulation changes regarding the continuing professional development (CPD) program requirements and stated that the document included the edits and suggestions from the Board's January 26-27, 2006 Board meeting. She stated that further changes had been suggested by Ms. O'Connor relative to Section 1399.160.4 regarding "examples of direct patient/client care courses."

Ms. Murphy suggested that the words "oral and written language" be included in the examples of direct patient/client care courses" as provided for in Section 1399.160.4.

Ms. O'Connor recommended an addition to Section 1399.160.5 that would provide for a breakdown of CPD hours awarded for courses obtained through a postsecondary institution operating on a trimester academic calendar.

The Board discussed other minor grammatical changes to the language.

M/S/C Bingea/Murphy

The Board unanimously voted to adopt the regulation proposal incorporating the changes outlined in the discussion.

B. Consider Proposed Amendments to California Code of Regulations Section 1399170.11(b) Regarding Speech-Language Pathology Assistant – Verification of Field Work Experience

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the proposed change would enable training program directors at Board-approved training programs to verify the clinical hours for bachelor's degree holders who are seeking registration as speech-language pathology assistants.

Ms. O'Connor indicated that she is opposed to such a change, as the training program directors at communication disorders programs are not familiar with the required clinical training of speech-language pathology assistants and, thus, may not accurately assess the clinical equivalency.

Ms. Murphy echoed Ms. O'Connor's concern.

Ms. Moir stated that she believes it would be beneficial to allow training program directors from communication disorders program to verify the undergraduate training hours because there are so few speech-language pathology assistant training programs, and that it may be logistically difficult for applicants to travel to the program site.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the process to review and verify the clinical hours is not overly time-consuming and can be accomplished by mail or other means of electronic communication.

The Board continued to discuss the justification for the proposed change and opted to maintain the existing regulations; therefore, no motion was made.

IV. Legislation

A. SB 1223 Scott – Hearing Aids

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the bill would mandate that health care service plans provide health care coverage of up to \$1,000 for hearing aids, within a 36-month period, to all enrollees 18 years of age or younger.

The Board reviewed the legislative bill and determined that the measure was consistent with previous legislative efforts that the Board was on record in support of.

M/S/C Grimes/Bingea

The Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support to Senator Scott supporting SB 1223.

B. Legislation Sponsored by the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association Regarding the Expansion of the Scope of Practice of Speech-Language Pathology to Include Suctioning Procedures and to Amend Existing Provisions Regarding Authorized Settings for Performing Flexible Endoscopic Procedures

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the proposed language as submitted by the sponsor, the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA). She indicated that the language will be amended into Senate Bill 1285, authored by Senator Aaenstad.

Mr. Powell addressed the Board and stated that CSHA and the author's office will continue to work with the Board on fine-tuning the language and the protocols for authorizing speech-language pathologists to perform suctioning for the purposes of communication and swallowing function. He stated that the intent of the legislation with regard to flexible endoscopy is to require physician referral, general physician supervision, and to ensure that appropriate medical emergency backup is available and prescribed.

Ms. Hancock explained the necessity for authorizing competent speech-language pathologists to perform suctioning and flexible endoscopic evaluations, noting that patients are at risk of aspiration if immediate intervention is not available. She stated that she has some concerns with the protocols for speech-language pathologists to perform flexible endoscopic evaluations at skilled nursing facilities if physician oversight is not readily available, or if competencies are not enforced at such facilities.

Mr. Powell stated that CSHA is willing to discuss necessary amendments to the draft language as the bill proceeds through the legislative process, and that Ms. Hancock's input would be considered. He stated that the first policy hearing on SB 1285 should be late March 2006.

M/S/C Hancock/O'Connor

The Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support regarding the concept of authorizing speech-language pathologists to perform suctioning under prescribed conditions and to expand the settings and supervision parameters for speech-language pathologists to perform flexible endoscopic procedures.

Ms. Del Mugnaio and Ms. Hancock will develop the support letter for sign-off by Chairperson O'Connor.

Ms. O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer